THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15. 1792.

A PROPOSAL

For a better mode of victualling the navy in warm climates, applicable also to East India ſhips, and containing many hints for curing provisions in Europe, by captain Forrest of the navy.*

WHEN I consider the uncomfortable manner in which seamen on board men of war often live in India, where I have resided many years, and have made above twenty country voyages, compared with the manner in which the same expence the nation is at to maintain them might enable them to live, I hope the following remarks will be attended to.

I chiefly condemn the improper mode of preserving beef and pork, not only in East India, but in Europe, and what immediately follows that improper mode, and seems inseparable from it, and linked to it, the improper mode of dreſsing the same, simply boiling, how widely different from the manner in which the country black sailors, called lascars, live in India, many of whom are daily seen in the streets of London.

* This important paper was communicated to the Editor, by a gentleman who is ever attentive to promote the welfare of his country.

In my first voyages in country ſhips, I always made a remark, the European sailors (generally one to five lascars, and who go under the name of quarter-masters,) are victualled as sailors are in Europe, that is, they have salt beef and pork, and rice instead of bread, sometimes Bengal biscuit; but good cargo rice, as it is called, and of which the lascars are allowed about two pounds *per* day, is never refused them, and it is served to them hot, twice a-day, at eight in the morning and five in the evening.

The remark that I never failed to make was, that these Europeans, with a kind of discontent, took notice that the blacks lived better than they; but the lascars did not cost in victualling above one half of what was laid out to victual the Europeans, when European salt meats were purchased.

The lascars allowance was plain rice, doll, a kind of vetch, two pounds of gee (butter) *per* month, and one rupee fiſh money; with which (and no doubt part of their own eight rupees *per* month pay, of which, on voyages, they have two, three, or four months advance, according to its expected length) they lay in a stock of articles, which an European would hardly think of, and many of which they would despise, not knowing their value.

The Europeans had beef and pork full allowance; in this there was a ſameneſs. It could not be dreſsed but in one way, as already observed, (boiling,) and I am persuaded, their exercise being but small, it was unhealthy food, and not fit for a hot country, more especially if the crew is sickly.

Latterly I altered my mode of victualling the Europeans. The beef and pork I carried to sea with me,

were salted, free of bone, and cut in small slices, with a mixture of some coarse sugar, this kept much better than in the usual way, and took up much less room. I made the following use of it: I caused it to be fresh[illegible] with salt water let in upon it, in a tub never larger than the half of a hogshead, or gang cask, and often much smaller, which was perforated by many holes at the bottom; this being done for six or eight hours, I gave it, after draining, a rince with a small quantity of fresh water, perhaps half a pint of water to a pint of meat; as I must now talk of meat not by the piece or weight, but by measure. Being thus rinced, the fresh water, now become salt, was let run off; then a certain quantity of India butter called *gee*, (good oil would do as well) was put into the copper or iron pot, and just let come to boil, which it presently does. Then the drained meat was thrown upon the boiling gee, which being stirred a few minutes, the roots and vegetables, whatever kind was on board, were thrown in with a very little fresh water, and the whole so stopt by a well fitting cover, that the contents were rather digested, as cooks say, than stewed, consequently sooner done; by this means saving fuel. The lascars would never touch any thing but what their own cook (*banderey*) dressed, and they sometimes mixed fish and flesh, making a savoury dish, of which the Europeans had no objection to partake; the vegetables were yams or potatoes; either the European or the sweet, called the Spanish onions, raw or preserved in vinegar, made of toddy drawn from the cocoa nut tree; cabbage sprouts dried in the sun, and so preserved; pumkins, which keep long being hung in the air;

mangoes, cut green from the stone and dried in the sun, (plumbs and apples would correspond ;) a little tamarind, and that great antiscorbutic, salted limes, lemons or oranges ; of which (the lime particularly) the lascars carry always a stock to sea, a few ounces of cayan pepper, (capsicum would correspond ;) and last of all, an emulsion, made by pouring hot water over a ripe cocoa nut rasped down ; this emulsion, though grateful to the taste, is bad for the stomach raw, but when boiled, a little is exceeding well flavoured, and antiscorbutic ; the rasped cocoa nut, well squeezed, is generally thrown to the fowls. A stew made in the above manner, varying the ingredients, was served twice a-day, and was exceeding good, never too salt ; for I apprehend, the roots and vegetables, in digesting, farther extracted the salt from the meat, and the whole expence for the Europeans, was much less than when I bought European provisions, and they were better pleased. The stew was served with a ladle, and ate with rice, calling it curry.

A sailor on board of a man of war has on meat days, a piece of salt beef or pork, boiled for dinner ; possibly it is all ate up at one meal ; if any remains for next day's breakfast, how uncomfortable is the cold scrap ! Breakfast in all countries, but especially in hot countries, ought to be a very comfortable meal. For the many years I have sailed in India, I never let any body go on duty, if there was the least chance of their being from the ship after eight o'clock, but they breakfasted first ; and the cooks were often up by day-light to dress a hot breakfast for such as went early on shore : If exposed to the

sun for any time without breakfast, they returned on board often sick at the stomach; but otherwise would bear being in the sun a whole day, without complaint; they sometimes carried pots in the boat with them and cooked aſhore.

I have supposed this mode of victualling for warm countries, but I see no reason why it may not be adopted at home in a great measure.

I have said the meat, cut from the bone in small pieces, was preserved with some sugar mixed with salt; but as in freſhening it the sugar was carried off with the salt, I be-grudged losing what was very wholesome,—I soon changed my method.

Long before I went to India, which was in 1751, the Portugueze used to preserve fiſh, cut in small pieces, with salt and sugared tamarind; and I frequently carried to sea with me (cured by the Portugueze of Calcutta, who make a trade of it) a tolerable provision for my own table; they called it *pesche molia*. I never found the fiſh thus preserved a bit too salt. It required only to be fried in the tamarind, *&c.* which covered it, adding a little butter.

But sugar and tamarinds are very cheap in Bengal, and latterly, I took the hint, and preserved meat with one part salt, the other sugared tamarind, throwing away the stones and strings of the tamarind, and adding a small proportion of cayan; and never was obliged to freſhen the slices of meat, when a good deal of vegetable was stewed with it. If this is tried at home, let not the difficulty of getting tamarind be an objection, sugar and salt will do; and I apprehend more than half of the former, at

least, it is worth trial. The more sugar is used the lefs is the need of frefhening. Here I cannot help remarking, how easily, even without culture, tamarind, cocoa nuts, limes and oranges, cayan pepper, *&c.* would grow in the Bahama islands. The cocoa nut tree delights in a sandy soil near the sea. The nut must be gathered ripe, and by all means kept in the hufk; a great manufacture of oil might be made from them by boiling the bruised nut, to supply the West India islands; and vinegar may be made of its toddy. As the nut, when ripe, will keep many months, I see no reason why they might not be used at home, if what I am going to say is put in practice.

Let the beef killed for the navy be cut in small slices from the bone, and preserved with one half salt, and one half sugar. Let the hogs be fkinned, and preserved in the same manner, cutting out, in both beef and pork, the inside parts of the sirloins, which ought to be preserved or cured by itself. The fkin of the hogs will make stout leather, the bones may certainly be put to some use, the juices of which, when barrelled up, not coming into contact with the salt, incline the whole to putrifaction; and their room saved in stowage is about one fourth part.

I fhall suppose there is an iron pot for one hundred men, in which I propose to drefs them two meals a-day, the first to be ready at eight or nine o'clock in the morning, the second as fhall be found convenient, and both to be drefsed in the following manner:

For one meal for 100 men, let fifty ounces of butter or oil, be put into the heated iron pot, this will immediately boil; to this add 200 ounces of pork, and 300 ounces of beef, the pork first, (this makes ten

ounces *per* day of meat for each man, and one ounce of butter, divided into two meals) which pork must be stirred about for a few seconds before the beef is thrown in. Whatever may be spared of the pickle is to be thrown in also. Let this stew for a ſhort time: Then having stirred it well, put in the sour crout, roots and vegetables, and close it well up to digest. It will be soon ready; and if, just before it is ready, there be added a quarter or one-eighth of a cocoa nut for each man, or twenty cocoa nuts for one hundred men, rasped down, and an emulsion made from it, and to the whole add a handful of dried capsicums, a sort of cayan, very common in England, the meſs to be served out with a laddle, will be both savoury and wholesome. I need not say if flour be added, so much the better, or raisins, prunes, or figs, but especially salted limes, lemons or oranges, and some of the vinegar thrown in, that has preserved onions or whatever else.

I do not apprehend, when there is a good stock of sour crout, roots, *&c.* that the curry will be too salt. If it is, in curing diminiſh the salt, and increase the sugar, perhaps add vinegar; I am persuaded pork, having much fat, wants but little salt. My having always, *i. e.* within these eight years, used half salt, half sugared tamarind, which answered very well, makes me uncertain of the effect of half salt and half sugar precisely.

The Malays often put into the wet ground, tied up in a cloth, a kind of bean, until it vegetates. This they put into their curries. Why they on ſhore ſhould do so I cannot tell; but taking the idea from them,

I have done much the same at sea, with a kind of pea, called doll, or gram, in India. I steeped the pease in water until they swelled, and then put them into a box, upon a layer of earth, then another layer of earth, and another of pease; in a few, days according as the weather was moist or dry, they were sprouted, and fit to be curried, or stewed, the same mode was repeated and succeeded.

I am confident a caſk may be filled in this manner with alternate layers of pease, with beans, or any other proper seed, and mould; and in three or four days give a large quantity of wholesome vegetable, highly antiscorbutic. The same operation may be repeated with the same caſks, and same earth, to great advantage; the caſks headed. up, may be put away for the time. Poſsibly a vegetable, so much in infancy, if I may so speak, stewed with such meat, may farther extract its salt.

Care ſhould be taken to provide our seamen in India with good cargo rice; and to let it be well cleaned before it is boiled, there is no want of hands to do what is so neceſsary: This is much neglected.

Our fleet was so sickly when admiral Hughes last met Suffrein, that eleven hundred men were sent sick on ſhore at Madras: Monsieur Suffrein, when at Atcheen, in 1782, got not many bullocks, but plenty of vegetables. The French deal more in stews than we do, which suit better for warm countries.

The beef and pork salted in Bengal soon grew rancid.

Millions of cocoa nuts in East India are carried from the Nicobar, and Carnicobar islands to Pegu,

and whole cargoes sold for ten or twelve rupees *per* hundred ; as are cargoes of ſhrimps, beat up into a paste and dried in the sun, often carried in boats, in bulk, up to Ava the capital. They call it blatchang or barlychang.

The Pegu cocoa nuts are inferior to those that grow near the sea, therefore they are fond of those from the islands lying off the coast.

The men ſhould have a pint of tea. Tea on ſhore to working people, may not be so good as malt liquor, but at sea, where there is no labour that can be called hard, at least in the navy or East Indiamen, tea as a cooler or diluter is wholesome. Four ounces of tea, value eightpence, and eight ounces of sugar, value twopence, will make sixteen pints of tea for sixteen men, which is not three farthings *per* man. Surely this served twice a-day is no great matter. To make tea for one hundred men, fourteen or fifteen gallons, allowing for waste, ſhould be put in the opposite pot to the digesting pot ; they ſhould have it dreſsed for them, else they will neglect it ; at the same time, as many, at their pleasure or command, as may wiſh to have tea, ſhould be allowed somehow to have a little by purchase, against their wages or otherwise. I have always observed, sailors drinking tea weans them from the thought of drinking strong liquors ; and with tea they are easily contented ; not so with whatever will intoxicate, be it what it will. This has always been my remark ; therefore I always encouraged tea-drinking without their knowing why. Coffee has the same good effect ; also

cocoa, or chocolate; but I prefer the tea as a refresher.

Sugared tamarind should be imported duty free; but as sugared tamarind will make, with spirits, very good shrub, to preserve the sugar-revenue it should be also mixed with salt, as then, although it is fit to cure beef or pork, or make pesche molia, it would make bad shrub. If not salted in the West Indies, it should be mixed with salt on the Custom-house wharfs. So soot is mixed with salt, when destined for manure, by revenue officers.

The Dutch are a wise people but slow; had they tamarind at their door, they long ago, I suspect, would have exported pesche molia to the Mediterranean. Tamarind is penetrating and generally consumes the small bones. All East Indians agree that pesche molia is exceedingly grateful and piquant to the taste.

What a field for the northern fisheries!

The limes or lemons having, by an incision on their sides, had a little bruised salt put in, in a few days are thrown to dry in the sun, being first squeezed by the hand. They are then packed up in their former pickle, and the jar or cask filled up with vinegar. It is needless for me to say they might also be preserved with sugar where they grow.

The lascars carry with them also to sea salted tamarinds, free from stone and string, which they put into all their dishes. They are also fond of the tamarind when green to put into their dishes.

THOMAS FORREST.

AUTHENTIC PARTICULARS

Respecting the family and connections of Mr Thomson, author of the Seasons, &c.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

As the profefsed object of all your lucubrations is the attainment of truth, I make no doubt but you will readily insert the following observations, tending to correct a small mistake into which one of your correspondents has innocently fallen.

In the notes concerning Mr Thomson, volume 6th p. 284, it is said, that two of his *nephews*, gardners, lived with him, and upon him.—Now, sir, this must have been a mistake; for I myself am perfectly well acquainted with his family and their descendants, and I can afsure you that Mr Thomson, the author of the Seasons, *&c.* never had a nephew a *gardner*. For your satisfaction, and that of the public, on this head, you are authorised to lay the following exact account of the present state of that family before the public.

James Thomson the poet had no brothers married, and none that survived him; he had three sisters, all of whom survived him.

Jane, the eldest, married Mr Robert Thomson at Lanark. He had one son, Robert, a student of medicine who attended the medical clafses in Edinburgh for two years, but died afterwards at his father's house in Lanark.

Elisabeth, the second, married Mr Robert Bell, minister of Strathaven—had two sons, Dr James Bell,

minister of Coldstream, who lately publiſhed in London a volume of sermons preached before the univerſity of Glasgow, and Thomas Bell, the second son, was a merchant in Jamaica, and died there.

Mary, the youngest, married Mr William Craig merchant in Edinburgh, who had one son, Mr James Craig, the ingenious architect who gave the plan of the New Town of Edinburgh, at a very early period of his life; he is still alive.

These, sir, I can aſsure you, are all the nephews that Mr Thomson had, none of whom either were gardners, or ever lived with him. And this account you may rely upon as true.

I cannot, however, suppose, that Mr Robertson could have mentioned the circumstance, which gave rise to this letter, unleſs there had been some foundation for it; but if any such persons did live upon Mr Thomson, it must have been others, who either had no connection at all, or a very distant connection with him. That some such persons might have taken the advantage of his easineſs of temper to live upon him, is not at all impoſsible, and they would not scruple to paſs themselves upon the neighbourhood for his relations. I know that it is, even till this hour, very generally believed that two nephews of Mr Thomson, who bear his own name, are still in life. One of them was formerly gardner to lord Bute, now a nursery-man at Mil-end near London, the other is full brother to this man, and is at present gardner to squire Bouverie; these two gentlemen are indeed relations of Mr Thomson, but very distant; their father is still in life, at

Broughton near Edinburgh, where he occupies a small piece of ground, that he feued from the late Mr Hunter merchant in Edinburgh; but I do not believe that either of these gardners lived with Mr Thomson; as I have reason to think they always prosecuted their own busineſs with aſsiduity, and attention, on their own funds, so that if any such persons lived with Mr Thomson, it must have been somebody else, who, I ſhould suppose, were not related at all to him.

Perhaps it may not be deemed superfluous to remark, that the above mentioned *Mary*, the last surviving sister of the poet, was buried at Edinburgh, September 22. 1790, her brother's birth-day; on that very day Thomson's birth was commemorated at *Ednum*, the place of his nativity, by the earl of Buchan, and a select party. The preses sat in the arm chair in which he used to sit when he wrote his Winter. It is now in the poſsesſion of Mr Elliot of ———. On that day likewise, Thomson's anniversary was celebrated by a very numerous meeting of the Cape club, at Edinburgh, where Mr Woods the comedian recited a spirited ode, composed by himself for the occasion. But Mr Thomson's anniversary has been celebrated in Scotland by so many others since, that it would be impertinent to take farther notice of them. I am,

SIR,

A FRIEND TO THOMSON AND TO JUSTICE.

To this the editor begs leave to subjoin the following information respecting Mr Thomson, which he has been favoured with from another hand.

On Christmas day was opened at Richmond church, in Surrey, in the Christening Pew, a table monument in braſs, over the grave of James Thomson the poet, whereupon is engraved the following inscription.

IN THE EARTH BELOW THIS TABLET

are the Remains of

JAMES THOMSON,

AUTHOR OF THE BEAUTIFUL POEMS ENTITLED

THE SEASONS, CASTLE OF INDOLENCE, *&c.*

Who died at Richmond the 27th of August,
And was buried here on the 29th O. S. 1748.

The earl of Buchan, unwilling that so good a man and sweet a poet ſhould be without a memorial, has denoted the place of his interment, for the satisfaction of his admirers, in the year of our Lord 1791.

Father of light and life ! thou good supreme !
O teach me what is good ! teach me thy self !
Save me from folly, vanity and vice,
From every low pursuit ! and feed my soul
With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure,
Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliſs !

N. B. Upon this occasion the vicar, the reverend Mr Wakefield, the vestry, and Mr Park at Richmond, conducted themselves most liberally and respectfully to the memory of the amiable Thomson.

THE WILL.

HASSAN BEN-AIOUB, a rich citizen of Balsora, a widower, and without children, saw himself attacked by an incurable disorder, and his end approaching. One day, as some of his friends were with him, he owned he had sent for the cadi, to make his will. Agib, one of them, made him many tender reproaches for so premature a resolution; but, however, added he, I see, my dear Hassan, the motive which makes yow act thus;—you think you cannot too soon consider what may become of those great riches, after your decease, which heaven has given you; you are afraid lest they should fall into hands undeserving of them, and the criminal use they may make of them should be imputed to you. Wise Hassan! I have nothing to add in such a case.—I will myself go for the officer you wish, and will bring him here immediately. Agib went out wiping his eyes that did not cry, and in less than half an hour, came back with the cadi. The sick man, drawing a sealed packet from under his bolster, said to the magistrate, Light of the law! these are the last requests of a dying man, I deposit them in your pure hands, which the gold of corruption has never dared to sully. As soon as the angel of death shall have disengaged my soul from its prison, have the goodness to open this testament in the presence of my relations and friends, but above all, in the presence of my good friend Agib.

Haſsan died a few days afterwards; scarce were his lips closed, when Agib hastened to conduct to the cadi, all those whom the defunct had desired might attend. The muſsulman judge, after he had ſhewn the seal whole and intire, broke it himself, and gave the testament open to his secretary to read, who with a loud voice read as follows:

"In the name of a just and merciful God, before I quit the caravansera of this world, where I have paſsed a bad and ſhort night, I Haſsan, son of Aioub, son of Abdalla, leave here this writing, by which I dispose of those pretended goods, which I ſhall not carry with me. I threatened my nephews Daoud and Achmet, that I would make them repent of their conduct, which has sometimes displeased me; and I will keep my word with them, quite otherwise than they expect. They are young and a little giddy, but were they more so, they are the sons of a brother who loved me, and the grandchildren of my father. I bequeath them, then, all the fortune which my father left me, and that which through providence I have added by my care and œconomy: If they abuse my benefaction, the sin be on their own heads. I leave them, I say, all I poſseſs, on condition, however, that they faithfully pay the under specified legacies. I bequeath nothing in favour of poor dervises; nothing even in favour of hospitals; my hands, thank heaven, were always open to pay indigence, the tribute they owed; but in dying I keep them ſhut; it is for my heirs to open theirs. What merit ſhould I have, to give to God, what he is going to take from me? With what eye does he see these

posthumous charities, which flatter the pride of the testator, and cost his avarice nothing?

I will, to count from the day of my decease, that all my slaves, without exception, enjoy absolutely and for ever their liberty. They deserve it so much the more because they do not desire it, but since they are afraid of losing me. I bequeath to those among them, whom age or infirmities render unable to work, an annuity in proportion to their wants; but none under fifty pieces of gold. With regard to the others, I love them too well to expose their virtues to the dangers of idlenefs. They will live as honest citizens by the trades I have had them taught, and I content myself with a legacy to each of them, of a hundred and fifty pieces of gold, once paid, which they will employ in forming their little establifhments.

I bequeath to the emir Mansour my Arabian horse, with his authenticated pedigree, and his furniture ornamented with pearls of Bahrem.

I leave to the Molla Saheb my gold writing stand; and to the Iman his brother, an ancient Alcoran, written with gold letters on thick vellum; the same, as it is said, which the caliph Omar read on the Fridays to the faithful afsembled in the great mosque.

This book excepted, I leave to the philosopher Amrou all the library which he had the trouble to collect for me himself. I know he loves books, and that it will be more easy for him to make good ones, than buy them. I leave him mine; but on this exprefs condition, that first of all he accepts a purse of a thousand pieces of gold, which for twenty years I

have been endeavouring in vain to make him receive: If he refuses still this last mark of my friendſhip, I renounce him for my friend from this moment, and I intreat our common friends, to revenge my insulted memory, by ceasing to visit so unreasonable a philosopher *.

I ſhall have leſs trouble, I believe, to make my good friend Agib accept a legacy. What do I not owe this dear Agib? He attached himself to me, almost in spite of myself, as soon as he saw I was old and infirm; and he never quits me one moment, from the time I was given over. It was him who made me see a thousand perfections, I, nor any of my friends imagined I poſseſsed. It is him who observed with a severe eye all the giddy tricks of my nephews, and who gave me an account of them rather more than true. But what ſhall I leave such a zealous and officious friend? A good counsel, that I hope he will profit by it. "Chuse better your dupes, my dear Agib, and never act your part of friend, but to one who to his riches adds vanity and weakneſs, you will find a hundred of this sort!"

Done at Balsora in the 322d. year of the Hegira the 9th day of the moon Regeb.

HASSAN BEN-AIOUB SERVANT OF GOD.

SPECULATION
ON REARING OAK WOODS IN SCOTLAND.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

SEVERAL of your correspondents have communicated to you many important hints upon the improve-

* Abbe Blanchet, the writer of this tale, has here delineated his own character with surprising fidelity.

ments of Scotland, but among all the improvements suggested, the rearing of oak wood, is perhaps one of the greatest consequence. And to stimulate the landholders here to the culture of this valuable wood, it may be of use to take a ſhort view of the advantages of rearing oak in Scotland, beyond those which the landholders in England enjoy.

That oak is a native of Scotland as well as of England, is apparent from the woods at Hamilton, Dalkeith, Yester, and several others.

The counties in England which produce the greatest quantities of oak, are Hampſhire, Suſsex, Kent, Eſsex, and Yorkſhire, all upon the east coast. Hampſhire, for its size, perhaps produces more oak than any of the others. It is very well inclosed, the inclosures are not large, and round them the oak is almost the only wood in their hedge-rows. There is a royal forest in Hampſhire, but their inclosed fields yield a greater quantity of oak than the forest does.

An oak becomes fully grown in about sixty years, upon rich soils, and sells high. When I was in Warwickſhire, a few years ago, Mr Editor, an oak tree was sold there for L. 100; it was said to be one hundred years old, but surely it paid the proprietor, or his heirs, very well for being allowed to grow so long.

The price of bark, both in England and Scotland, has been upon the advance for many years; it is now about double of what it was forty or fifty years ago, and is still looking up.

Plantations near a river, or the sea, are no doubt to be preferred for the convenience of water carriage; but were the carriages called teams, made on purpose in England for transporting timber, to be adopted here, land carriage would not come so high as it does at present. A team of two horses, will bring three or four tons ten or twelve miles at a very moderate charge.

Where there are rivers near plantations, in which there may be cataracts, these may sometimes be avoided. There is a fir wood, in a very elevated situation in the Highlands, which belonged to a gentleman of the name of Grant; most of the trees are large enough to be fit for masts to a man of war. A Mr Bacon from Yorkſhire, hearing of this wood, went to see it. It is situated near a river, in which there is a deep cataract, over which he caused the trees to be tumbled, when the river became flooded; but upon examining them, they were so much ſhaken by the fall, as to be rendered unfit for masts, and he abandoned the speculation. Some years after, a Mr Dodesworth, from the same county, a gentleman of penetration, hearing of this extraordinary wood, went to see it, and having examined the banks of the river he bought the wood. He directed a small canal, or ditch, to be cast from above the cataract, sloping along one of the banks, into which, when the river was flooded, the timber was conducted to a safe situation in the bed of the river, and so down to the sea.

The price of bark in England, is from L. 6, 10 s. to L. 7, *per* ton, (20 cwt.) when brought here, loaded

with freight, insurance, and the importer's profit, it is sold for L. 8, 10s. *per* ton.

It is computed that the value of the bark in England, amounts to about one-third of the value of the timber.

The common prices of oak for ſhip-building in England, are from forty to forty-five ſhillings *per* ton, (forty cubical feet,) when brought here; loaded with much the same charges as the bark is, it is sold for from sixty-six to seventy-two ſhillings *per* ton.

In Scotland the wood-cutters of young woods (usually cut at twenty or twenty-five years growth) look up to the value of the bark for their reimbursement and profit; the timber being too small for ſhip-building, is but of little value.

Oak has the advantage of other timber in the value of its bark; and besides, when allowed to grow till it becomes fit for ſhip-building, it yields at least four-pence a foot more than aſh, elm, or plane trees. And farther, there is no danger of the rearing of it being overdone, as all the oak for ſhip-building is brought from England, or the east sea; and three-fourths of the bark used upon the east coast, even as far as the Murray frith, comes from England; whereas the other sorts of timber mentioned, are now so plentiful, as nearly to supply the demands for home consumption.

In an open country, beltings are absolutely neceſsary for the rearing timber of any kind; but when a

country becomes completely inclosed, even by trees in hedge-rows, beltings become lefs necefsary.

It is said, most of the other sorts of trees grow faster than the oak, for the first forty years, but after that period, the oak grows faster than any of them, and that it is inconceivable, how much both the wood and the bark increase, by allowing the tree to grow till it is ripe; even many of the branches become fit for fhip-building, and are converted into what is called the ribs of fhips.

I have often thought, Mr Editor, that it would be a speculation well worth the attention of a commercial company, to purchase oak woods, when they come to be sold, at twenty or twenty-five years growth, from the proprietor, at an auction, (and they are commonly sold by auction,) and agree to pay to him a like sum at the expiration of other twenty or twenty-five years, and so in proportion, for the time the purchasers find it eligible to keep the wood growing, till it is fully ripe. For it is pofsible that woods, being brought to sale so very young, may be owing to some exigency in the finances of the proprietors. Wifhing every succefs to the Bee, I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

Edin. Dec. 1791.

MEANWELL.

ACCOUNT OF AN ANCIENT STONE COFFIN.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

IN the month of December last year, when some people were digging gravel for repairing the public road betwixt Edinburgh and Dumfries, in the pa-

rish of Kirkurd, twenty-three miles from Edinburgh, there was found in a gravel hillock, a built stone coffin, about four feet and a half long, two feet and a half wide, and two feet and a half deep; it had no other bottom than gravel, the sides built of several stones, and the cover one entire stone.

The body was not lying at full length, as by the size of the bones it appeared to have been about six feet long. There was found among the bones three flint stones, the largest of which is about nine inches long, resembling the point of a halbert, the edges and point sharp like a spear, and the other end round, as if fitted for a handle; another of a circular form, and sharp in the edges, about three inches diameter; the third in form of a cylinder, three inches long, and one inch diameter. There was likewise found a kind of ring, neatly carved, about three-fourths of an inch thick, in which were two small holes by which it seemed to be hung by a string, it admitted a man's finger, and is two inches and a half diameter; there were two kinds of round pieces as large as a coat button, thick in the middle, and thin on the edges. The above three upon examination were found to be coal.

If any of your correspondents can tell whether the person here interred had been a warrior, as some suppose, or a druid, as others allege; or have any other observations to make concerning it, they will be very acceptable to, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

A—— H——N.

Mount Bog, 30th Dec. 1791.

REFLECTIONS OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Selected from his letters.

OH! how prudent, moderate, forbearing and mild, does the school of adversity render man! The proof is terrible; but where it has been endured, its utility continues to the end of life.

Letters to the marquis d' Argens, LXXVI.

How different is it, my dear marquis, to view objects of ambition at a distance, through a deceitful prism, by which they are embelliſhed, from examining them closely, naked as they are, and stripped of their tinsel ornaments! Vanity of vanities! Vanity of victories! This is the sentence of a sage. It comprehends all things, and in itself contains reflections which every man ought to make, but which are seldom made in the hurry of action.

Letter XCV.

Oh! how hard is the human heart! It is said I have friends; yes, and excellent friends they are to be sure! They stand peaceably still, and see me going to destruction.

"I wiſh you every happineſs!" "O, then, I am drowning, throw me a rope!" "Pardon me, sir, you will not be drowned, I think, and I ſhall catch cold by going into the water." "Nay, but good God! I am absolutely sinking sir!" "I hope not, dear sir, and if the worst ſhould happen, which God forbid, be persuaded, that I ſhall make it my busineſs to write a very handsome elegy on your death." Such marquis is the world. *Letter* XCVIII.

To be continued.

PORTSDOWN HILL *, A POEM.

To the Editor of the Bee.

--------------Hence Britannia sees
Her solid grandeur rise:------------
Hence rules the circling deep and awes the world.
THOMSON'S SUMMER.

Of all the hills which claim poetic worth,
From snow-clad Sandwich † to the frozen north,
From Japan's isles which hail the rising morn,
To Chilian cliffs that ev'ning rays adorn,
None more deserves the tributary song,
Than thou, PORTSDOWN! if that could praise prolong.
The bards of old gave fav'rite hills their fame,
With gods and heroes join'd each sounding name,
With fancied beings peopled ev'ry grove,
War raged here, and there were scenes of love:
For as the poets wav'd their magic wands,
Black regions gloom'd, or smil'd celestial lands,
Fame follow'd still to Pluto's dark abodes,
Or soar'd on high, where Jove his fiat nods;
These, still obsequious, mark'd each fav'rite hill,
And to a river swell'd each purling rill.
But thou, my Portsdown! tho' to fame unknown,
Superior glories hast around thee thrown;
Tho' on thy summit no proud cliff aspires,
No scenes tremendous,---no volcanic fires,
No rocks impending bar the wish'd-for path,
No yawning caverns stretch their jaws of death,
But thence around th' enraptur'd eye surveys
Rich scenes of glory, far surpassing these.
The varied landscape wide-extended lies;
Lawns, woods, and spires, in distant prospect rise;
Old Ocean's waves, that roar around thy coast,
Or howl thro' cliffs in foaming billows tost;
Thro' cliffs,---the bulwarks of Britannia's pow'r!
That awful centre of her thund'ring store!
Planted by nature's ever careful hand;
The fixed barrier of fair Freedom's land,
Thy much lov'd Isle ‡, its rocky sides displays,
Frowning defiance on the subject seas.

* A hill which overlooks Portsmouth town, dock, and harbour, Spithead, the isle of Wight, and a vast track of the adjacent country.

† Sandwich isles, discovered by captain Cook in his second voyage.

‡ Isle of Wight, which forms Spithead, and defends the island of Portsea from the ocean.

Here hast thou, Portsdown! seen, in awful state
Riding sublime, the British navies wait
In dread array;---their masts like forests rise;
Their blazing colours waving in the skies;
Along their decks ten thousand heroes stand,
Courting each gale to waft the wish'd command,
To bear the thunder 'midst the daring foe;
Or round the globe as guards to commerce go;
His captain's nod each tar impatient eyes,
At half a word the unfurl'd canvas flies
Full in the wind; they boldly stretch away,
And shout, exulting, "Now's the wish'd-for day!"
"The wish'd-for day!" the crowded shores reply,
"And success crown it!---Triumph now or die."
Oft hast thou, thus, seen British sons go forth
To plow the southern ocean, or the north;
To bear their terrors to the rising day,
Or thunder with the sun's declining ray;
Or, what more pleasure to the soul imparts,
And warms to rapture soon the coldest hearts,
When crown'd with laurels from each region borne,
The guards of commerce thou hast seen return.
Thus the fam'd ancient sire, who, anxious, gave
His fav'rite youth the trusty well tried glave,
To make his way on Fortune's ample field,
Where battles rage, and dangers triumphs yield:
When thro' long toils and various perils train'd,
He comes distinguish'd to his native land,
The good old man's rekindl'd ardour glows,
And warm'd to rapture from his bosom glows:
"Welcome my child! I now dismiss my fears.
Thou prop!---support! of my declining years:
Enjoy in peace thy laurels bravely won,
And be my guard, thou dearest fav'rite son!"
Thus dost thou see, when war's wild rage is o'er,
The British navy rang'd along thy shore.
For this fair prospect, all the pomp of courts
The sov'reign leaves, and to thy brow resorts,
From whence he views, in glorious landscape thrown,
The nation's pride, and guardians of his crown.
He sees, exulting, how this ample guard,
To pour their thunders ever stand prepar'd;
Tho' his great mind, superior to the glare
Of false ambition, says, "Be far off war:
In Britain's welfare all our cares are plan'd,
To find her plenty with a gentle hand,
To bid her commerce flourish round the world:
For these alone are all our sails unfurl'd,
And but for these, those thunders ne'er should roar,
Those vessels anchor on a hostile shore.

For commerce, plenty, arts alone I ask:
My people happy,---finish'd is my task.
But vain our ships the unknown seas divide,
In vain we trace old Ocean's farthest tide;
We strive in vain remotest lands to find,
And with a golden chain unite mankind;
For man with man determin'd war maintains,
And havock spoils ev'n Europe's polish'd plains.
Since thus we stand to neighb'ring pow'rs a prey,
We feel a charge to ward the fatal day."
   Thus spoke the monarch, or he thought at least,
While love and pity warm'd his royal breast,
As down thy side his gliding car descends,
To meet the blessings of his subjects friends,
Whose love and loyalty united, give
The truest welcome sov'reigns can receive.
   Unlike this welcome met, in days of yore,
A prince*, ill fated, on the Portsmouth shore,
When scap'd from wand'rings, here, in cells immur'd,
Trembling he lay, nor here, alas! secur'd.
Those hoary walls which bear his sacred bust,
When he and rebels crumbled are in dust,
This lesson teach in ev'ry future sway,
To reign like George, and like to us obey;
Then shall the grateful subjects crown the plains,
To pour their blessings if a father reigns.
Such late thou saw'st around thy sea-girt base,
Where winding harbours all thy form embrace,
Where splendid towns adorn thy binding shore,
And firm-built mounds repel the ocean's pow'r;
Thou saw'st the whole one living scene display,
And shouting thousands lead the monarch's way,
To where he heard unnumber'd blows resound,
Saw Labour smile, and Toil rejoice around;
To where he saw his wooden bulwarks rise,
Tow'ring aloft of vast capacious size,
Whose oak-ribb'd sides, black-frowning swell on high,
Where forth in smoke destructive thunders fly;
'Midst smoke and noise he saw our splendour rise,
And Chearful Freedom smile without disguise.
   As when in annual round, with life fraught ray,
In Spring's fair season comes the orb of day,
Creation smiling owns his genial pow'r,
And prostrate nations the bright god adore;
So you, great prince! when led by public cares,
Where one wide scene of industry appears,
Saw grateful thousands 'midst their toils look gay,
And heard their blessings on your gentle sway.

* Charles I.

Unlike the days when those old walls* arose,
When Britain's sons to Britain's sons were foes,
When barb'rous cruelty each province tore,
And undefended lay the naked ſhore;
Intestine broils made savage life a prey,
Alarm'd by night, nor ev'n secure by day;
By factions mangled, helpleſs to defend,
Without an ally, and without a friend,
They ſhrunk recoiling from the toils of war,
And fell a prey to ev'ry foreign spear.
But changes great those hoary tow'rs have known,
Since Roman greatneſs tumbled from her throne;
Since o'er the earth her iron rod ſhe drew,
The nations trembling as her eagles flew;
They've from her tomb seen Britiſh freedom rise,
Seen Britiſh ensigns blazing to the ſkies,
Seen Britiſh sails full in their face unfurl'd,
Heard thunders roar that oft have aw'd the world,
Seen cities built, and domes and spires ascend,
And harbours form'd, and useful moles extend,
Seen fertile fields, and smiling plenty grace
Portsdown! thy side, and round thy swelling base.
Long may all these incircling round thee spread!
Still may freſh laurels flouriſh round thy head!
May bards more equal to th' extensive theme,
In sweetest numbers sing thy growing fame!

BEAUTIFUL VERSES

COPIED FROM THE WINDOW OF AN OBSCURE LODGING HOUSE.

WHAT tho' to deck this roof no arts combine
Such forms as rival ev'ry fair but mine;
No nodding plumes, our humble couch above,
Proclaim each triumph of unbounded love;
No silver lamp, with sculptur'd Cupids gay,
O'er yielding beauty pours its midnight ray;
Yet Fanny's charms could Time's slow flight beguile,
Soothe ev'ry care, and make this dungeon ſmile;
In her what kings, what saints have wiſh'd, is giv'n;
Her heart is empire! and her love is heav'n!

* Portchester castle, said to have been built by the Romans, its bold ruins stand at the bottom of Portsdown hill, projecting into the harbour.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE COURT OF THE PRESS.

ASCRIBED TO THE HONOURABLE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ESQ.

Power of this court.

It may receive and promulgate accusations of all kinds, against all persons and characters among the citizens of the state, and even against all inferior courts; and may judge, sentence, and condemn to infamy, not only private individuals, but public bodies, *&c.* with or without inquiry or hearing, at the court's discretion.

In whose favour, or for whose emolument, this court is established.

In favour of about one citizen in five hundred, who, by education, or practice in scribbling, has acquired a tolerable stile as to grammar and construction, so as to bear printing; or who is possessed of a press and a few types. This 500th part of the citizens have the privileges of accusing and abusing the other 499 parts, at their pleasure; or they may hire out their pens and press to others for that purpose.

Practice of this court.

It is not governed by any of the rules of common courts of law. The accused is allowed no grand jury to judge of the truth of the accusation before it is publicly made; nor is the name of the accuser made known to him; nor has he an opportunity of confronting the witnesses against him; for they are kept in the dark, as in the Spanish court of inquisition; nor is there any petty jury of his peers sworn to try the truth of the charges. The proceedings are also sometimes so rapid, that an honest good citizen may find himself suddenly and unexpectedly accused, and, in the same morning, judged, and condemned, and sentence

pronounced against him, that he is a rogue and a villain. Yet if an officer of this court receives the slightest check for misconduct in his office, he claims immediately the rights of a free citizen, by the constitution, and demands to know his accuser, to confront the witneſses, and to have a fair trial by a jury of his peers.

The foundation of its authority.

It is said to be founded on an article in the state constitution, which establiſhes the liberty of the preſs—a liberty which every Pensylvanian would fight and die for; though few of us, I believe, have distinct ideas of its nature and extent. It seems indeed somewhat like the liberty of the preſs that felons have, by the common law of England, before conviction, that is, to be either preſsed to death, or hanged. If by the liberty of the preſs were understood, merely, the liberty of discuſsing the propriety of public measures and political opinions, let us have as much of it as you please; but if it means the liberty of affronting, calumniating, and defaming one another, I, for my part, own myself willing to part with my ſhare of it, whenever our legislators ſhall please so to alter the law; and ſhall cheerfully consent to exchange my liberty of abusing others, for the privilege of not being abused myself.

By whom this court is commiſsioned or constituted.

It is not by any commiſsion from the supreme executive council, who might previously judge of the abilities, integrity, knowledge, *&c.* of the persons to be appointed to this great trust of deciding upon the characters and good fame of the citizens; for this court is above that council, and may accuse, judge, and condemn it, at pleasure. Nor is it hereditary, as is the court of dernier resort in the peerage of England; but any man, who can procure pen, ink, and paper, with a preſs, a few types, and a huge pair of

blacking balls, may commissionate himself; and his court is immediately established in the plenary possession and exercise of its rights. For if you make the least complaint of the judge's conduct, he daubs his blacking balls in your face wherever he meets you; and besides tearing your private character to slitters, marks you out for the odium of the public, as an enemy to the liberty of the press.

Of the natural support of this court.

Its support is founded on the depravity of such minds as have not been mended by religion, nor improved by good education.

> There is a lust in man no charm can tame,
> Of loudly publishing his neighbour's shame;
> Hence,
> On eagle's wings, immortal scandals fly,
> While virtuous actions are but born and die.
>
> DRYDEN.

Whoever feels pain in hearing a good character of his neighbour, will feel a pleasure in the reverse. And of those, who despairing to rise into distinction by their virtues, are happy if others can be depressed to a level with themselves, there are a number sufficient in every great town to maintain one of these courts by their subscriptions. A shrewd observer once said, that in walking the streets in a slippery morning, one might see where the good-natured people lived, by the ashes thrown on the ice before their doors; probably he would have formed a different conjecture of the temper of those whom he might find engaged in such subscriptions.

Of the checks proper to be established against the abuse of power in those courts.

Hitherto there are none. But since so much has been written and published on the federal constitution, and the

neceſsity of checks, in all other parts of good government, has been so clearly and learnedly explained, I find myself so far enlightened as to suspect some check may be proper in this part also; but I have been at a loſs to imagine any that may not be construed an infringement of the sacred liberty of the preſs. At length, however, I think I have found one, that instead of diminiſhing general liberty, ſhall augment it; which is, by restoring to the people a species of liberty, of which they have been deprived by our laws, I mean the liberty of the cudgel! In the rude state of society, prior to the existence of laws, if one man gave another ill language, the affronted person might return it by a box on the ear; and if repeated, by a good drubbing; and this, without offending against any law; but now the right of making such returns is denied, and they are puniſhed as breaches of the peace, while the right of abusing seems to remain in full force; the laws made against it being rendered ineffectual by the liberty of the preſs.

My proposal, then, is, to leave the liberty of the preſs untouched, to be exercised in its full extent, force, and vigour, but to permit the liberty of the cudgel to go with it, *pari paſsu*. Thus, my fellow citizens, if an impudent writer attacks your reputation, dearer perhaps to you than your life, and puts his name to the charge, you may go to him as openly, and break his head. If he conceals himself behind the printer, and you can neverthelefs discover who he is, you may, in like manner, way-lay him in the night, attack him behind, and give him a good drubbing. If your adversary hire better writers than himself, to abuse you more effectually, you may hire brawny porters, stronger than yourself, to aſsist you in giving him a more effectual drubbing. Thus far goes my project as to private resentment and retribution. But if the public ſhould ever happen to be affronted, as it ought to be, with the con-

duct of such writers, I would not advise proceeding immediately to these extremities; but that we ſhould in moderation content ourselves with tarring and feathering, and toſsing them in a blanket.

If, however, it ſhould be thought that this proposal of mine may disturb the public peace, I would then humbly recommend to our legislators to take up the consideration of both liberties, that of the preſs, and that of the cudgel; and, by an explicit law, mark their extent and limits; and at the same time that they secure the person of a citizen from aſsaults, they would likewise provide for the security of his reputation.

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING ARTS.

Continued from p. 224.

Paper-making.

STILL more useful will be the machine, when it ſhall be invented, which it doubtleſs will be, for lifting up the paper in the frames, and turning it out upon the blanket. The great inaccuracy of hand-work, is now sensibly felt by every person who has occasion to use much paper. Not only does it happen that one ſheet will sometimes be greatly thinner than another, but even one part of a ſheet will frequently be greatly thicker than another part of it. This must subject the papermaker to great expence and inconvenience; because an expert hand must be so much more valuable than another, that he will have it in a great measure in his power to demand what wages he pleases. This must naturally make him insolent, idle, and diſsipated; and as the loſs that must result from inaccurate-made work will be great, the training of apprentices cannot fail to be a disagreeable and unprofitable taſk, which gives additional power to the trained monopolizers.

All these evils would be effectually removed, were a proper apparatus of machinery contrived for performing this operation. If care were taken to keep the pulp of one thickneſs, (and a gauge might easily be adapted to indicate a change in this respect with the utmost precision,) every ſheet must of neceſsity be of the same thickneſs with others, and every part of the ſheet alike, throughout its whole extent. It might likewise be set to work a thicker or thinner kind of paper, with a degree of precision that cannot at present be attempted. These are considerations that ought to induce papermakers to apply for the aid of men of genius in the line of mechanics, much more than they have otherwiſe done. Perfection in manufactures can only be obtained by the combined efforts of men of science in the lines of mechanism and chemistry, with industry and application of the undertakers through every department of their works.

Carriages upon springs.

Several persons about Edinburgh have lately contrived carriages with springs for bringing to market articles that are very tender and easily broken or bruised. The strawberry dealers began this improvement, and the glaſs-house company at Leith have followed their example. In these cases nothing more is intended than merely to diminiſh the ſhocks, to which the tender articles put into these carriages are exposed by the way. The owners of these, and other machines of the same kind, are not aware that the difficulty of draught is thus greatly diminiſhed, so that one small horse will draw with ease in such a carriage, as much weight of goods as would have required a much stronger horse to move it, if the weight had been placed immediately upon the ſhafts.

OLLA PODRIDA.

A receipt to make a Spanish olla (a favourite dish) for a company of eight persons who dine at four o'clock.

About ten o'clock in the morning take three pounds of beef, fat and lean, with little or no bone; set it on a pretty brisk fire, in a pot with cold water; when the water is going to boil, the beef will throw up, during ten minutes, or thereabouts, a thick scum, which must be carefully taken off, till no more comes up; cover again the pot, and let it boil till twelve o'clock, when you must put in it three pounds of good mutton, with little or no bone, a piece of bacon, or ham, with as much fat as lean; at one o'clock add two or three black puddings or sausages, (the first being the best, as they have more fat and substance,) two or three leeks or onions, and some cabbage, broccoli, or other greens. Season the pot with salt, pepper, and a very little cinnamon, diminish the fire, and let the whole boil gently till three o'clock.

Take a soup dish that bears the fire, and toast, in pretty thin slices, about the quantity contained in three halfpenny loaves of French bread, a day old, put it into the soup dish, and pour the broth from the pot upon it; cover the soup dish, and set it on a gentle fire, where it must boil very slowly till the hour of dinner, letting the pot with the meat, *&c.* remain at the edge of the fire, so as to be kept quite hot. Serve up the soup, and afterwards the meat, arranged neatly in a large dish, with all the other articles round it. If the olla is well made, the soup will have a fine rich flavour.

Upon particular occasions, and when the company is large, a young fowl is also put into the pot; which ought to be done either at the same time with the mutton, or with the black puddings, which circumstance I do not re-

collect. Upon second thoughts I believe the pot ought to be seasoned at the time the mutton is put in.

Receipt for dying cotton a fine BUFF COLOUR.

LET the twist be boiled in pure water to cleanse it; wring it, run it through a dilute solution of iron in the vegetable acid, what printers call *iron liquor*; wring, and run it through lime water to raise it; wring, then run it through a raw solution of starch and water; wring and dry, wind, warp, and weave,—send it to the taylor, or to Germany, where it will pay well.

SPECULATIONS ON TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

EXTENSIVE speculations in *trade*, are generally hurtful, because they produce, for the most part, bankruptcies; but monopolizing speculations to a large extent in *manufactures*, are still more destructive; because they not only occasion frequent bankruptcies to the parties themselves who engage in them, but also so much derange the operations of others, as to throw many industrious persons out of bread, which is one of the severest maladies that can attack the body politic, and is attended with the most destructive consequences.

Never, perhaps, was there a nation on the globe in which monopolizing speculations were carried to such great lengths as in Britain. It is not many years since a large manufacturing company in Manchester, engaged in a speculation on cotton, so deeply, as to occasion a failure, and a loſs to their creditors of several hundred thousand pounds. It is unneceſsary to add, that every enterprise of a similar

nature, is liable to equal risk, and ought therefore to be guarded against with care. Whether it is possible for the legislature, without encroaching too much upon the privileges of a free people, to guard against it, is doubtful; but it surely ought to be the study of every cautious man, in his private capacity, to keep as free of transactions of this nature as possible, whether he be considered as an active adventurer in this deep game of hazard, or as a passive being, who, by a culpable inattention, may be eventually involved in the consequences resulting from it.

We have heard that there is at present on foot an enterprise of this adventurous cast, upon a greater scale than ever before was attempted in Britain. A large manufacturing company in the west of England, it is said, have had many agents employed for some time past in buying up all the white linens and cotton cloths that can be found, at such prices, as gives the callico printers who are, or lately were in the possession of these cloths, no room to think they could print them with profit, if the price of printed goods shall continue as low as at present; and as these agents confidently assert, that the company for which they act, will continue to sell printed goods, to any extent that may be demanded, at the present prices, many of the manufacturers have been prevailed on to sell a great part of their unprinted goods, thinking they thus obtain a very good profit, *certain*, instead of a moderate one, *contingent* only; and some, we have heard, have even gone such lengths, as to sell the whole of their stock on hand, and to abandon the business.

It is of importance, however, to the public, that an adventure of this sort should be scanned with attention at as early a stage of its progress as possible, in order that the probable evils it would occasion may be guarded against. With this view, it will not be impertinent to hazard a few

remarks upon the subject at present, without, however, pretending to say whether such a plan be actually in agitation or not; for, on this subject, the writer hereof reasons entirely hypothetically.

It cannot be denied that this adventurous company, if such there be, either must fail in their project, or they must succeed in it. What will be the consequences to the public in either case?

If they ſhall buy up goods to a great amount, at advanced prices, and fail in procuring the monopoly that appears to be aimed at, the consequences are obvious, and need not be insisted on here.

It is of more importance to inquire what would be the consequence if they ſhould be able to succeed in this enterprise.

The first consequence would be, to derange the operation of all those leſser manufacturers who ſhall have been so uncautious as to sell their white goods, for the sake of the tempting price offered,—to throw many of their hands out of employment, and to render useleſs much of that machinery they had erected at a great expence. Their best hands will thus be dispersed, and will not be easily collected together again, ſhould they ever be wanted; nor will they return to such persons, who will be considered as unsteady employers, without additional wages; their machinery will also go to wreck, so that if they ſhall ever think of beginning their busineſs anew, they must do it at a great additional expence to what they could have gone on with if no such interruption had taken place.

The second consequence is, that the price of printed goods must rise considerably; and if the company ſhall have succeeded in securing a great quantity of wrought cloth, and ſhall at the same time speculate in cotton wool, (which we cannot suppose will be overlooked,) it is hard to say

how high these prices may be raised *for a time*;—as high no doubt as poſsible! For as to the aſsertion that the company will sell these goods as cheap as at present, we can only consider it as a lure held out to blindfold simpletons. What manufacturer or merchant will not, in every case, take as high a price for his goods as he can get at market? The prices being thus raised, the very manufacturers who sold the cloth may be glad to buy it back again at an advanced price, trusting to the high price of callicoes continuing; but, in consequence of that high price, great exertions will be made to supply the demand; much cotton wool will be produced, much white cloth will be made, and a diminiſhed sale of printed cloths, both at home and abroad, must be the consequences of the advance of price. All these circumstances combined, must first produce a stagnation in the sale, then a fall of price. Sales must be forced below prime cost; and bankruptcies and distreſs, to a prodigious extent, must be the inevitable consequences. The company who began all this, may, however, chance to escape, if they ſhall have had acuteneſs, and moderation enough to avail themselves only of the first spurt that their artificial operations ſhall have occasioned; but they are like men walking above a mine of gunpowder, to which a match may be set in a moment that will drive them all to destruction. Wretched, indeed, must that country be, whose manufacturers are gamblers! A faro table is but a childiſh game to a stake of this nature, which must unfortunately involve in its consequences many millions of industrious and innocent people.

From all this it ought naturally to be inferred, that those who are in poſseſsion of marketable goods at present, will probably serve their own interest most effectually, by not being tempted by offers, which, though apparently advantagious for them, may be, in the end, highly detrimental. They ought to consider, that if they at

present, for a tempting offer held out to them, for *once*, only, ſhall allow their buſineſs to slacken, or run into confusion, they will probably be deprived of a hundred moderate profits, that they have the prospect of deriving from a steady adherence to buſineſs; and that therefore they will do well to think deliberately, before they permit themselves to be drawn into the snare.

The reader will here observe, that we by no means take it upon us to aſsert, that such a design is at present in agitation; nor have we the smallest knowledge of the persons concerned, nor any thing respecting their situation; so that nothing that is said above, can be understood to have reference to them as *individuals*. The case is entirely hypothetical, and the reasoning general. If such a thing be in agitation at present, what has been said will apply to that case as well as to any other of a similar kind at any future period. It is intended merely to operate as a general caution to guard against the influence of monopolizing principles, whenever they ſhall occur. It is equally calculated for the meridian of Bengal as of Britain; and will equally apply to the ninteenth, as to the eighteenth century.

It may be proper just to touch upon one circumstance, which alone would be sufficient to ſhow, that if ever a case ſhould occur, similar to that alleged, something unfair must be intended. If such a company ſhould purchase a great quantity of unmanufactured goods, perhaps equal to twice or thrice what their works are capable of executing, how is it poſsible they can perform the whole of this, without a great and wonderful previous preparation? Every manufacturer in this branch, must feel the force of this argument; and must of course see, if he wiſhes to see, that the lure held out must prove fallacious.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

CORN BILL.

Continued from p. 192.

DURING the recefs of parliament, many pamphlets, as usual, were publifhed on the subject of the corn bill, and among these none made a more distinguifhed figure than that by lord Sheffield, who disputed in many respects the principles afsumed by the committee. On the 14th of December, Mr *Ryder* moved, in a committee of parliament, some resolutions, merely with a view to have them printed before the holidays, for the consideration of the members. *Agreed to.*

The purport of these resolutions was, that in order to ascertain the selling price of grain, the whole of Britain fhould be divided into certain districts, therein specified; in each of which the actual prices fhould be taken at stated periods, and transmitted to an officer in London to be appointed for that purpose; who fhould, according to regulations provided for that purpose, publifh these prices, and which fhould be accounted the standard for regulating the importation and exportation of grain; that liberty fhould be given to warehouse foreign grain under certain regulations, when it could not be sold in this country; that government fhould provide warehouses at certain ports for that purpose; with other clauses which had been formerly carried into practice.

After a committee of the whole house had sitten by several adjournments on this bill, in the progrefs of which nothing very remarkable occurred till March 11. 1791, when a warm debate took place on the clause permitting the warehousing of corn. The proceedings in this case were too remarkable to be pafsed over in silence.

Upon the clause for erecting warehouses for the reception of foreign corn, the committee, on the motion of lord Sheffield, divided;—Ayes, 62;—Noes, 62.

The chairman thereupon gave his casting vote for the *Noes*, and the clause was of course *thrown out of the bill.*

When the preceding clause had been thus rejected by the committee, *Mr Pitt*, on the departure of several of those who had voted against the clause, told the committee, that all the dependant clauses ſhould remain in the bill, (notwithstanding it was agreed that they were absolute nonsense *without* the clause that had been rejected,) because the clause ſhould be restored on the report. *Lord Sheffield* gave notice that, as whatever was urged against any part of the bill did not obtain the least attention, he ſhould move, at a proper time, for a call of the house; and then his lordſhip and several others, quitted the house.

After some farther conversations on the subject, the *chancellor of the exchequer* rose and said, that as the members had at first been equal, and as gentlemen had now but little time, he ſhould again divide the house. The committee then divided again upon *lord Sheffield's* amendment.

Ayes, 55;—Noes, 67;—Majority, 12.

The committee was then adjourned to the 16th.

The above, though a faithful statement of facts, will, no doubt, to every attentive reader, appear to be a very extraordinary procedure in a grave aſsembly of legislators, on a busineſs of great national importance, as there appears upon the face of it a degree of obstinacy, of warmth, and petulance that seem to be altogether inconsistent with the full elucidation of truth, in a matter of so much importance and difficulty; and it must reflect a disgrace upon this aſsembly, that they could tamely sit and see themselves so basely insulted. Would Hampden and Ruſsel, and the patriots of that day, have believed it poſsible that a time would ever arrive, after the nation had once been able to establiſh their freedom by a clear bill of rights, when any man could stand up in that house, and, to their faces, tell the members that he would not permit a clause in a bill to be rescinded, although he himself, and all who heard him, acknowledged it was nonsense. Yet this was done; and so tame and humble was this senate, that it paſsed almost without reprehension. We may boast of our freedom, as the Roman senate boasted of theirs, when Caligula caused his horse to be nominated consul; and with equal reason, while such things are; yet not only the senate, but the nation at large, like the famous people of Rome, bore it without

animadversion. It is now near a year since this remarkable event took place, and I do not recollect to have heard it animadverted upon either in conversation or in writing. I blame not the minister for this,—he knew to whom he spoke. It certainly gave an additional proof of his sagacity to those he had on former occasions displayed.

The wonderful part of this day's proceeding, however, does not rest here; what follows seems to be equally deserving of reprehension. When a question had been put, and clearly decided by a majority of votes, in a grave aſsembly, it seems to be a procedure of a very singular nature, to permit the same question, in the same day, in the same meeting, to be a second time brought to the vote. Yet this was done. If it can be brought to the vote a second time, why not a third, or a thirtieth time, if you will? What security does this give to men that they may not be circumvented? A person who thinks he has an interest in a question, attends when that question is debated, stays till the vote is paſsed, and hears the decision; he is then satisfied, and goes about other busineſs. But when he, and those who think with him, are gone,—when a packed junto, taking advantage of this security, feel themselves superior in numbers,—then one of these has only to rise up, and move the question a second time, and the whole is reversed. Such a mode of procedure is certainly inconsistent with every principle of equity and candour; and were the principle to be adopted, either in parliament, in courts of justice, or in any other public concerns, universal confusion and distrust must ensue. I freely own it excites my astoniſhment that it ſhould have been permitted for once to be practised, without the severest reprehension. I do not pretend to say, whether, according to the rules of parliament, the same question, under the same form, can ever be brought to a second decision in the same aſsembly; but surely, if it can, material justice requires, that it ſhould only be in consequence of due intimation being given, that all concerned may have an opportunity of attending at the time.

Two of the greatest bulwarks of freedom, are a strict adherence to law in courts of judicature, and the most scrupulous observance of *forms* of procedure, in other re-

spects. To admit of the smallest dispensing power in judges, is to institute a set of legislators, which the constitution does not allow, whose laws are not promulgated, and which must be productive of the very worst consequences. Every lover of freedom will therefore guard against this inlet to oppreſsion; but it often makes its appearance in such an amiable form, by moderating the severity of harſh laws, as to escape the censure of the people. Artful men have, therefore, often employed it imperceptibly, to extend the bounds of arbitrary power. No engine of despotism, indeed, has been adopted so often, or so succeſsfully, in this country, particularly in regard to revenue laws; nor has any thing been productive of such grievous calamities to the people; though its approaches have been so well disguised, as never to have been much taken notice of by them. It has been long an eſtabliſhed system in Britain, to make the revenue laws so severe, as that it is impoſsible they can be *strictly* enforced. The consequence is, that officers, in the discharge of their duty, and judges, in their official capacity, think themselves often, from justice and humanity, authorised to make an arbitrary mitigation. But cruel is the kindneſs thus obtained!—Men, trusting to this mitigation, are tempted to transgreſs the law oftener than they would do,—and having once begun to do so, they know not where to stop. The revenue is thus greatly diminiſhed, fraud and chicanery is encouraged, and honest integrity in busineſs is repreſsed. Room too is given for the paſsions of revenue officers, and of judges, to influence their conduct; those who have disobliged the one, or incurred the ill-will of the other, are chastised according to the utmost severity of law; while others, in the same circumstances, who are favourites, are allowed to escape with impunity. Thus is the fortune and prosperity of any man at the mercy of others, and in this manner have very many honest men been ruined, while others have been enriched.

In this manner room is given for individual oppreſsion in every part of the country. Nor is this all: If the minister ſhould take a particular prejudice against the manufacturers of one part of the country, and wiſh to cheriſh those of another, in preference to them, he has only

to iſsue his mandate to the revenue officers of the proscribed district, telling them that complaints are loud that the revenue laws are not strictly enforced in that district, with regard to that particular article, and requiring them, at their peril, to see the laws more strictly enforced in future; while no such mandate is sent to other districts, or perhaps a mandate of an opposite tendency. The consequence is, that the minister, by a secret manœuvre, which altogether escapes the public eye, can thus depreſs or encourage at pleasure, whatever part of the country he inclines. That this may be done, cannot be disputed; and that it has been done, will not, I think be denied, *in this country at least.*

A strict adherence to *forms* of procedure, in other respects, is also a barrier to despotism, which wisdom has contrived, and which ignorance cannot perceive, that ought to be rigidly adhered to. The paſsions of men are often violent, and when a popular tide runs high in favour of a particular object, it seems to be impoſsible to go too far in its favour. In these moments of national phrenzy, what barrier can be conceived for moderating its violence, except old eſtabliſhed *forms?* Reasoning, by those who are capable of it, would be always ineffectual,—often dangerous. Break down, therefore, this single fence that stands in the way to stop procedure for a time, and every thing must give way to the popular torrent;—but let this be respected as sacred, and reason may have time to resume her throne. Often have ministers complained of the tediousneſs occasioned by the forms of procedure in the legislative aſsemblies of the Belgic confederacy; but these states owe their very existence to these forms. Who can compute the number of wars from which they have been saved by these forms? The very difficulty of getting over these, prevents even an attempt to seduce them on many occasions; and similar difficulties will produce similar effects in other cases. For these reasons, I conceive that old eſtabliſhed *forms* of procedure in government ought to be accounted the *palladium* of a state, and ought ever to be deemed so sacred, as on *no occasion* to be made to yield to the preſsure of the present moment. They may poſsibly, at times, be productive of a real inconvenience;

but the evils to which the removal of them would give rise will generally be a thousand times greater; but for the most part it will be found, that the *supposed evils* they produce, have been *real benefits* of great importance.

From these considerations, I cannot help warning my countrymen, never to permit the smallest infraction of *established forms*, if they value their freedom, and to guard against the dispensing power of revenue officers, and of judges, as the greatest political malady that can attack the state. Where the laws are too severe to admit of being strictly enforced, let them be mitigated "by the authority of the *legislature*;"—but let no one else attempt to do it. When Britain shall seriously adopt this system, she may mark that period as the æra from whence she is to date the commencement of her prosperity. Till she does so she may boast of freedom,—but she possesses it not. She may vaunt of her prosperity,—but it must be a prosperity of a sickly and distempered hue, which owes even the very notion of its existence, rather to the comparative weakness of others, than to her own health and vigour.

To be continued.

ANECDOTES.

During the late war, eighty old German soldiers, who, after having long served under different monarchs of Europe, had retired to America, and converted their swords into ploughshares, voluntarily formed themselves into a company, and distinguished themselves in various actions, on the side of liberty. The captain was nearly one hundred years old, and had been in the army forty years, and present in seventeen battles. The drummer was ninety-four; and the youngest man in the corps on the verge of seventy. Instead of a cockade, each man wore a piece of black crape, as a mark of sorrow for being obliged, at so advanced a period of life, to bear arms: "But," said the veterans, "we should be deficient in gratitude, if we did not act in defence of a country, which has afforded us a

generous asylum, and protected us from tyranny and oppreſsion." Such a band of soldiers never before, perhaps, appeared in any field of battle.

THE magistrate of a little village in the marquisate of Brandenburgh, committed a burger to prison, who was charged with having blasphemed God, the king, and the magistrate. The burgomaster reported the same to the king, in order to know what puniſhment such a criminal deserved. The following sentence was written by his majesty in the margin of the report:

"That the prisoner has blasphemed God, is a sure proof that he does not know him: That he has blasphemed me I willingly forgive; but, for his blaspheming the magistrate, he ſhall be puniſhed in *an exemplary manner*, and committed to Spandau *for half an hour*."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE communication by *K.* is received, and ſhall have a place with the first conveniency.

The two respectable communications by *M. C.* came safe to hand; and ſhall be properly attended to. The hints on chivalry are rather long; and seem to have been gathered chiefly from *one* popular writer. The Editor, however, is much indebted to this correspondent for his obliging attention, and will endeavour to do all manner of justice to his remarks.

The interesting paper by *a young* observer is received, and ſhall have a place in its turn.

The spirited performance of *Thunderproof* is come to hand. It is always the Editor's wiſh to correct real abuses; but not to excite a spirit of diſsatisfaction. Though some persons will think the animadversions of this correspondent too severe; yet they seem to be too well founded, and will tend to lead the attention towards some objects of great importance; on that account they ſhall have a place.

The Editor is much obliged to *a friend to Thomson and to justice*, for his account of the family of that worthy poet. It ſhall be inserted without loſs of time.

The communication by *Philo* is received: It came too late to admit of its being applied, as the ingenious writer intended.

A *Wilberforcite* is also received, and though the Editor, for very obvious reasons, has avoided entering on that subject, he believes he may venture to insert this small morsel.

The *Informer*, No. 2. is came to hand. As the performances of another correspondent, in a strain somewhat similar to his writings are now at the preſs, this number will be neceſsarily postponed till a more convenient season.

Raa Kook would have a very mean opinion of the Editor, indeed, if he believed, that his letter could have any other effect than to make him more slow in doing what he requires. The truth is the paper to which he alludes was given out for insertion, and upon receipt of his letter has been withdrawn, for a time.

The performances of many respectable correspondents have been unavoidably delayed; and strict impartiality requires, that where a marked superiority in point of merit does not appear, attention ſhould be bestowed to priority in point of time. It will be the Editor's study to do justice to all his correspondents, as far as he can, and not to ſhow undue favour to any individual.

The verses on the death of a mouse, most unfortunately for the writer, recal the idea of another performance on the same subject. This presents a parallel that a young performer ſhould wiſh to avoid. Perhaps, on this account, the Editor will do a kind thing if he surpreſses them.

The love-sick maid ſhall have a place when a convenient opportunity occurs.

Domine Felix ſhall be also indulged.

The letter of *B. C.* is received. From what goes before, he may see that it is impoſsible the Editor can gratify himſelf by obliging all his correspondents, which he most cordially wiſhes he could do; many times verses, that are in themselves good, are upon trite subjects; and often performances, on well chosen subjects, are careleſsly written. He wiſhes his poetical correspondents never to forget that what is not excellent, must be accounted bad; what is intended merely for ornament, unleſs it be really ornamental, ſhould be rejected. What would we say of the person who ſhould present his mistreſs with a ring, in which a rough diamond was set as it came from the mine?---ſhe could not wear it. A few good thoughts, in a poem careleſsly finiſhed, are the same. Though the Editor, therefore, may be obliged to return such, a finiſhed piece by the same hand would be highly acceptable.

The life of the *duke d'Aubigny* is thankfully received.

The sensible remarks of *A. E. I. a subscriber*, came duly to hand, and ſhall be attended to.

The communications by *Hiero* and *Philo*, competition pieces, are received; and with others will now be sent to the judges without loſs of time.

The second letter of *Graham Cannie* is received. The second name subjoined to his was entirely an error of the preſs. It ought to have been the beginning of another paragraph. Thanks for his little piece; others in the same strain, carefully touched, will be very acceptable. *Queech* and *Grumio* are received.

A *spring-poet*, with some others of leſser note are also come to hand.

PREMIUMS.

*** The readers of the Bee are respectfully informed, that the ingenious gentleman who gained the premium of two guineas for the translation of a part of Virgil's Georgics, having returned that sum to the Editor, it is hereby again offered as a premium, to be given to the best piece that ſhall be offered in verse or prose, on any subject, between this time and the 1st of *November* next. Those who mean to compete for this premium will please to specify their intentions when they send in their papers; and send along with it a sealed note, containing the name and addreſs of the competitor, which ſhall not be opened unleſs it prove succeſsful.